

## **DULUTH AMERICAN INDIAN COMMISSION MEETING**

**Monday, June 15, 2009 - 5:00 p.m.**

**Mayor's Reception Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, City Hall**

**Members Present:** Warner Wirta, Tony LaDeaux, Donna Ennis, Bea Kitto, Toni Dickenson, Ricky Defoe, Joy Dorscher

**Excused Absent:** Michele Gordon, Ron Boshey, Renee Van Nett

**Staff present:** Kathie Severson

**Others present:** See sign-in sheets.

### **CALL TO ORDER, APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND INTRODUCTIONS:**

Meeting called to order by Chair, at 5:13 pm. Introductions of Commission members, staff, and community members present.

**Motion by Donna Ennis, seconded by Tony LaDeaux, to approve the agenda.**

### **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MAY 18, 2009 MEETING:**

Warner Wirta wanted addition to minutes to include (218)525-1334- Joyce Kramer contact person for more information regarding Leonard Peltier Resolution

**Motion by Donna Ennis, seconded by Joy Dorscher, to approve the Duluth American Indian Commission minutes from the May 18, 2009 meeting. The motion was approved.**

### **COMMUNITY PUBLIC FORUM / OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:**

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **AICHO's Gimaajii (YWCA Housing / Indian Center) written project report – Sherry Sanchez Tibbetts -**

Focus is on MHFA closing on funding sources. Sanchez Tibbetts is available for any questions needed. AICHO met with Community Development staff, issues resolved and agreement met, so issues were taken care of and will be moving forward. Lead will be removed before construction. RFP issued today for contractors to do proposals. Lead abatement in four weeks. On schedule as much as possible. Possible move in date is July, 2010. Applications will be taken in approximately one year.

#### **Civilian review Board Report – sub-committee report – Tony LaDeaux**

Last meeting went well. Planning on getting a lot of funding for Eileen Luna, approximately \$40,000 is cost. RFP will be sent out by end of June, proposals back by end July. Only half police cars have cameras and recording devices. Will discuss what information will be released to community. Ms. Luna wants to look at the questions used in survey. No meeting with mayor set yet.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Initial Planning for Duluth Indian Community Forum

Date for Feast and Forum held every August. Date will be further discussed.

**Natural Environmental Issues -**

Resolution being submitted that addresses barrels in Lake Superior. Testing of the Duluth drinking water intake pipe and federal funds being used for this.

**Barrels in Lake Superior NukeWatch – John LaForge -**

Ricky DeFoe thanked Mr. LaForge for coming. LaForge thanked the DAIC for inviting him. He has worked for Nukewatch for about 20 years. Nukewatch dug in and did a lot of research. In 1976 there was an urgency in finding the location of barrels and finding out what was in them. Honeywell stated absolutely no radioactive material. There's controversy still regarding the contents of the barrels. Proof in 1990 came during sampling of drums - four were emitting gamma radiation levels. Red Cliff won large grants to investigate barrels. Red Cliff requested larger grant to pay for collection of sediment and water samples to see if they have been contaminated by the waste. DeFoe said he is wondering if health consultation report going to be enough. What are long time effects? DeFoe noted that there is a large history of denial regarding the barrels. LaForge – upcoming events community can give support to is Lakes Superior Day Event- Slogan is Water is Life, on Sunday, July 19, at the Marine Museum at 10:00 Walks starts at 11:00 free, open to the public, walk through town 2.2 miles to finish at Indian Beach with rally, speakers and food. Living Lakes Coalition will be having activities in the summer and fall of this year. Tony LaDeaux asked if there is any connection between water and illnesses in the area - certain types of cancer, etc.? No answers to that question – still an ongoing issue and investigation going on. Wirta – if Shipping docks are rusted out, then barrels must be in same condition. Wirta very concerned that drinking water being affected. LaForge – Red Cliff requested grant to do sediment testing. Water system does check for some contaminants but not all of the 17 listed contaminants are tested for. Only nine barrels recovered. Sediment testing a must; testing at water intake is a must. DeFoe asked what average citizen can do? LaForge stated citizens should demand PCA clear up its inconsistencies and contradictions. Invite Mr. Bergson here to speak regarding his position on the barrels. Testing the water prior to the intake into the city would be beneficial. Radiation monitors are being installed in places so it would be possible to do monitoring for the different types of radiation. Bea Kitto – was any stimulus money given out for the lake efforts? Wirta stated this may need to be made a National Security Matter.

**Handouts given out and reviewed.****ANNOUNCEMENTS, UPCOMING EVENTS AND COMMENTS FROM COMMISSION**

Donna – correspondence from Minnesota Power looking for candidate for Fuel Technician. Ron Boshey couldn't make it and wanted it known that HRA Meeting went well and HRA allowed rental for probationary agreement for 90 days to six months. Kitto – Very interested in the water issue regarding Lake Superior. Worried about the

water and how it is affecting people. Wirta said he didn't see a resolution protecting the eagles. A very bad situation in South America where Indians are being killed. Free Trade Agreement is killing Indians in South America and Peru. Wirta thinks DAIC should look into the situation. He will have a paper he picked up on the internet to show commission at next meeting. Wirta believes we as Indians from North America, should have feeling for these people. Dr. Dorscher – There's a program up at university – Bridges to Master Degree – teaching science through environmental science. Phd, Ben Clark, Biochemist at UMD taken interest in the lake and looking into process where he may be able to identify metals and species. She would like him to come and speak. Were the officers contacted by Sister City Project? None were contacted. Dr. Dorscher was contacted by Thunder Bay – she will send out information. Tony LaDeaux – last Saturday, lady from Palestine spoke and wanted to talk with Native People regarding genocide. She will be around until August to discuss these issues with Native American Women. Toni Dickenson – Really impressed with HRA's decision to look into housing cases more with offering reasonable accommodations. DeFoe – if commissioners have opportunity to get out the FDL Reservation they're building of a new birch bark canoe. Lake Superior Days may include new birch bark canoe.

**NEXT MEETING/DATE/LOCATION:**

Monday, July 27, 2009 – 5:00 p.m., Mayor's Reception Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, City Hall

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion by Donna Ennis, seconded by Tony LaDeaux, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was (unanimously approved).**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.